

Excerpts from: "Fingertip Facts"—2004 Edition, a publication of the Manchester (NH) Economic Development Office, One City Hall Plaza, Manchester, NH 03101, (603) 624-6505, econdev@ci.manchester.nh.us.

## LABOR

Manchester's labor force is industrious, providing "a day's work for a day's pay." Approximately 63% of the total population of New Hampshire lies within 30 miles or 35 minutes traveling time of Manchester, and the Metropolitan Area offers the largest supply of both skilled and unskilled labor in the state. The Manchester Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area civilian labor force numbers 121,060, and employment in all categories for residents of the Manchester MSA is 115,940 (March 2004). The PMSA's total nonfarm wage and salary employment is 109,400 (March 2004).

The minimum wage in New Hampshire is \$5.15 per hour. The average hourly rate for production workers in Manchester was \$16.13 (based on a 38.7 hour week) in March 2004. As is true for the state as a whole and all other major communities, per covered worker annual wages in Manchester are higher in goods producing industries than in service producing industries.

	All Workers-2002	Goods Producing-2002	Service Producing-2002
STATE	\$36,600	\$45,142	\$34,001
MANCHESTER MSA	\$37,780	\$42,623	\$37,040

The New Hampshire Department of Employment Security offers a complete one-stop employment service ([www.nhes.state.nh.us](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us)) to both employers and job applicants.

The federally-funded New Hampshire Workforce Opportunity Council ([www.nhworks.org](http://www.nhworks.org)) coordinates a variety of workforce development programs for both businesses and employees.

Fringe benefits practices of area companies vary, but in general they are as follows:

Number of paid holidays.....	6-10
Vacation	
After one year.....	2 weeks
After 5 years.....	3 weeks
After 15 years.....	4 weeks
Insurance	
Medical.....	Offered by 86% of firms
Dental.....	Offered by 75% of firms
Life.....	Offered by 54% of firms
Retirement programs.....	Offered by 67% of firms
Bonuses.....	Performance-based
Tuition assistance.....	Offered by 40% of firms

Manchester has consistently had one of the best records in the nation in terms of minimum hours lost through strikes. According to the NH Department of Employment Security, there were no labor disputes recorded in the Manchester Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area in 2003.